

Moscow Snubs Jackie on Book



Associated Press Wirephoto

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald displays letter from her son, Lee, that will be auctioned April 6.

Moscow, Jan 25 (AP)—A Soviet magazine today published excerpts from the uncut version of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President."

Literaturnaya Gazeta (Literary Gazette), a weekly put out by the Soviet Writers' Union, carried part of the text from the latest issue of the West German magazine Stern.

Stern refused to eliminate material that Mrs. John F. Kennedy objected to and was sued by Look magazine, which sold the publication rights to the German magazine. A Hamburg, Germany, court ruled Monday that Stern may continue to publish the unabridged serialization.

"The text which appeared in Look magazine has been changed on the demand of the Kennedy family," said a preface to the excerpts in the Literary Gazette.

"Stern magazine refused to make any changes. In spite of a suit by Look magazine the editors of the West German weekly published the original version.

"Here we offer to the readers' attention some excerpts published in the latest issue of Stern magazine."

The excerpts described events on the day before President Kennedy's assassination.

The editor of William Manchester's "Death of a President" was critical today of one of the Kennedy family's advisers for violating "confidential" exchanges made while the book was being edited.

Evans Thomas, chairman of the editorial board of publishers Harper & Row, accused Richard Goodwin—though not by name—of violating a "personal and private" relationship that existed among the book's various editors.

Goodwin, one of the men who read the manuscript for Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, said Sunday that Thomas in a letter dated May 16, 1966, described



SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY
Flying to Europe.

Manchester's book as "in part tasteless and gratuitously insulting to President Johnson and, for that matter, to the memory of the late President Kennedy."

That letter was addressed to John Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville Tennessean, and Edward Guthman, of the Los Angeles Times. Both had served under Attorney General Kennedy and the comments of both were solicited by Thomas.

In commenting on Goodwin's statement, Thomas confirmed that he had requested revisions in Manchester's manuscript.

"The function of an editor is to edit and that's what my job was in connection with the Manchester book," he said.

"It was complicated because

for a period of months starting in March of 1966, I was working on the manuscript with a number of Sen. Kennedy's representatives.

"When several people are thus working editorially on any work the editors' exchanges of views with each other and with the author are always regarded as confidential—they are personal and private and part of a working process.

"Every editor makes critical comments in the course of editing a work—they are properly subject to discussion between author and editor or editors or editors. The Manchester book was revised in response to many of the editorial comments made by the Kennedy readers and myself. Harper regards the final version as a fine work."

Plans European Talks

Sen. Kennedy, meanwhile, flies to Europe today on a brief trip that will include talks with British Prime Minister Wilson, French President de Gaulle and possibly top German officials.

He's one of six Senators flying to London for the Ditchley Foundation Conference, one of a series held periodically in which members of Congress meet with members of Britain's Parliament.

In still another development in the Kennedy story, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald announced that she planned to sue Manchester for referring to her son, Lee Harvey, as the "assassin" of President Kennedy.

"This makes me the mother of an assassin," she said, "and I'm not. I am the mother of an accused assassin."

She plans to sell at auction in the Waldorf April 6, through the firm of Charles Hamilton Autographs, a letter written to her by her son from Russia.

"It's a very painful thing for me to do," she said, "but what else is one to do? I have to eat."